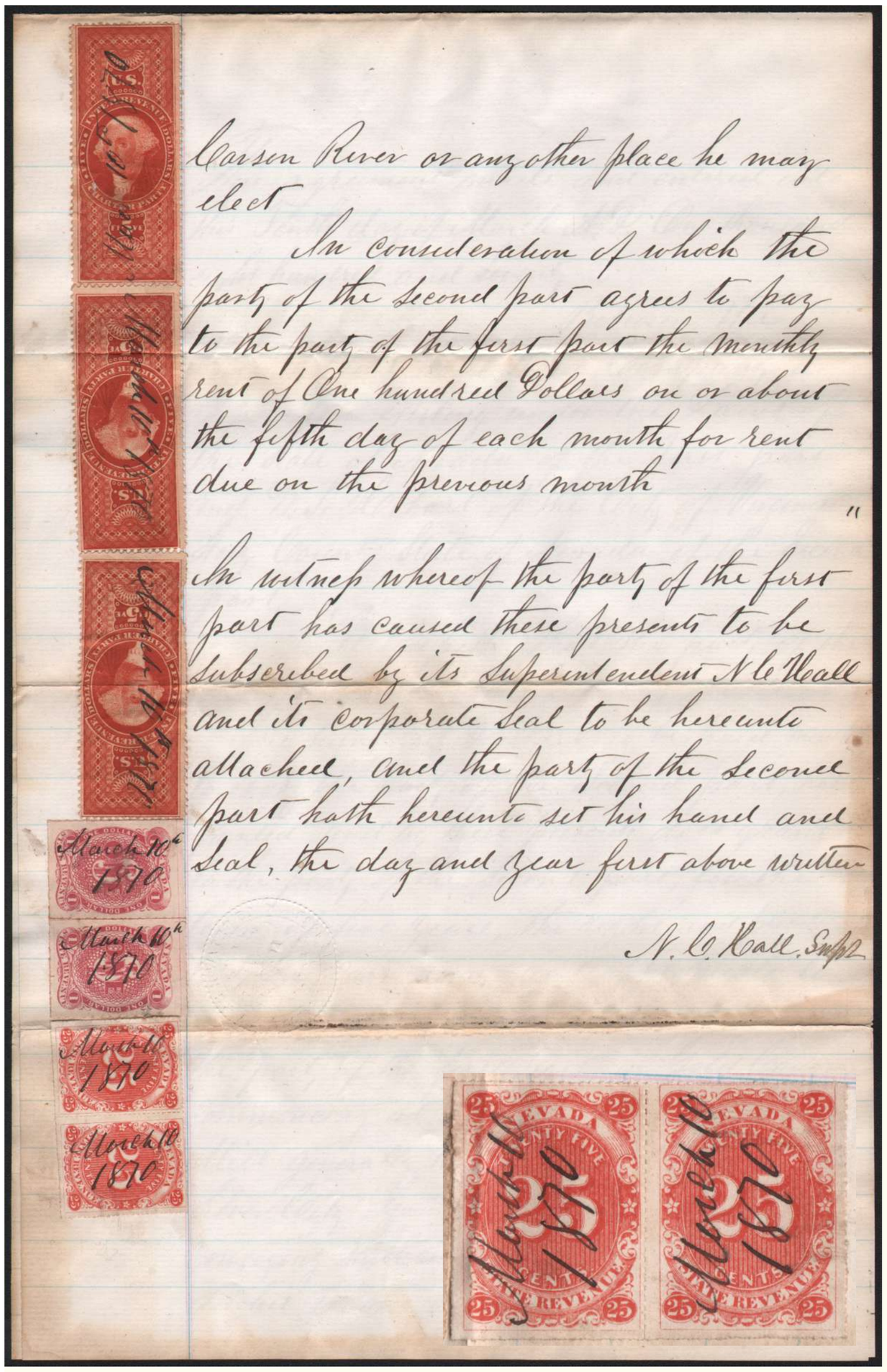

Carson River or any other place he may elect
In consideration of which the party of the second part agrees to pay to the part of the first part the monthly rent of One hundred Dollars on or about the fifth day of each month for rent due on the previous month
In witness whereof the party of the first part has caused these presents to be subscribed by its Superintendent N. G. Hall and its corporate Seal to be hereunto attached, and the party of the second part hath hereunto set his hand and Seal, the day and year first above written
N. G. Hall. Supt
March 10th 1870
March 10th 1870
March 10th 1870
March 10th 1870
NEVADA TWENTY FIVE 25 CENTS STATE REVENUE
March 10th 1870

The Rest of the Story: The Remarkable Nevada Revenue-Stamped Lease and its Extraordinary Backstories

Purpose. This exhibit describes a **philatelically extraordinary 1870 water lease** made at **Virginia City, commercial center of Nevada's fabled Comstock Lode,** and explains its **multi-layered backstory, not merely in words,** but **via an array of documents,** each philatelically and/or historically significant in its own right.

Together they describe the ambitious project of **lumber and mining magnate Walter Hobart,** supported by **Comstock titans John Mackay and William Fair,** to **transport mill tailings from Gold Canyon**, near the Comstock, via a **3.5-mile flume** to the **Carson River** for **specialized processing.**

Red type: Read me!

Exhibit Plan

1. **Virginia City, Nevada Water Lease**
2. **Why Lease Water?!** (To carry mill tailings via Woodworth Flume)
3. **Where/How Were the Tailings Processed? (I)** (Gold and silver concentrated in Woodworth Sluice)
4. **Where/How Were the Tailings Processed? (II)** (Gold and silver extracted in "New Ophir" or Woodworth Mill)
5. **How Was the "New Ophir Mill" Patented? (**Via Minnesota Sioux Half-Breed Scrip!!)

6.1 **Financing the "New Ophir Mill" (I)** (Mortgage to Comstock titans John Mackay and James Fair)

6.2 **Financing the "New Ophir Mill" (II):** (Mortgage agreement signed by Mackay, Fair and Hobart!)

1. Virginia City, Nevada, Water Lease

Left, March 1870 **lease, Virginia City, Nevada,** by **Virginia & Gold Hill Water Co.** to **W. S. Hobart,** of **water from Gold Canyon** at or near **discharge of Trench Mill, Silver City,** **rent $100 per month for five years:**

Sole recorded example of Nevada's Lease stamp tax, illustrating the unintended discrepancy between U.S. and Nevada rates, fortunately magnified by five-fold errors in figuring the tax!

Sole recorded 25¢ roulette 18 multiple on document.

- **U.S. $15 tax** paid by **$5 Charter Party (x3)**
- **Nevada $2.50 tax** paid by **$1 roulette 10 pair** plus **25¢ roulette 18 pair**

Inset: close view of 25¢ pair

1.1 Nevada Legislative Error: "Annum" Means "Year"!

The **U.S. Lease stamp tax** was **50¢ for the first $300 rent per annum,** plus **50¢ for each additional $200.**

The **Nevada 1865 statute** mimicked the U.S. as usual, but **substituted "month" for "annum,"** almost certainly in error, thus markedly reducing the state tax relative to the federal, since the rent per month was only one-twelfth that per year. **This discrepancy would be corrected in 1871.**

1.2 Stamping Error: Tax based on Total Rent, Not Annual Rent!

The **taxes paid here** were erroneously based on the **$6,000 five-year rent,** thus **$15 U.S., $2.50 Nevada,** instead of the **$1,200 annual rent;** the **required taxes** were **only $3 U.S. and 50¢ Nevada!**

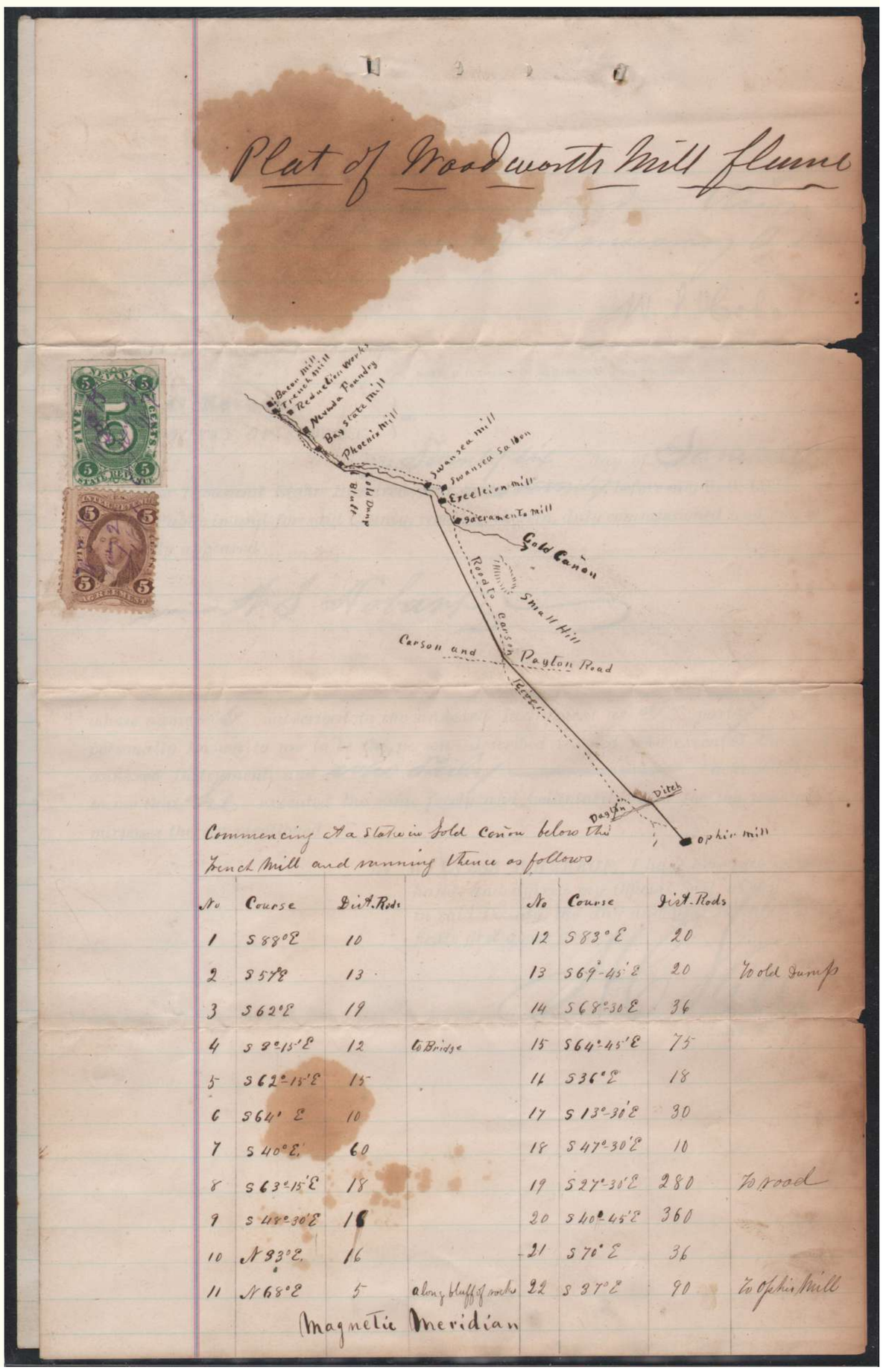
1.3 25¢ Roulette 18 Sole Recorded Multiple

The **25¢ roulette 18** has been **recorded on just seven documents, this the only multiple.** The **gauge 18** appears to have been a **short-lived experiment** circa late 1869, used only on the 2¢, 25¢ and 50¢; on-document examples are rare.

Lease Tax Appropriate?

*A **"water lease"** is legally defined as a **right to its use.** However the **stamp tax schedules** refer to "lease, agreement, memorandum, or contract for the hire, use, or rent of any **land, tenement, or portion thereof."***

***Does water qualify as "a land, tenement, or portion thereof"?** The simple **Agreement tax of 5¢ per page might have sufficed.** We can thank the interpretation made here for the remarkable stamp taxes paid!*


Plat of Woodworth Mill flume
Bacon Mill
French Mill
Reduction Works
Nevada Foundry
Bay State Mill
Phoenix Mill
Old Dump
Swansea Mill
Swansea Saloon
Excelsior Mill
Sacramento Mill
Gold Canon
Road to Carson
Small Hill
Carson and Dayton Road
Ditch
Dayton
Ophir Mill
Commencing at a Stake in Gold Canon below the French Mill and running thence as follows
No Course Dist. Rods
1 S 88° E 10
2 S 57 E 13
3 S 62° E 19
4 S 8°-15' E 12 to Bridge
5 S 62°-15' E 15
6 S 64° E 10
7 S 40° E 60
8 S 63°-15' E 18
9 S 48°-30' E 16
10 N 83° E 16
11 N 68° E 5 along bluff of rocks
No Course Dist. Rods
12 S 83° E 20
13 S 69°-45' E 20 To old Dump
14 S 68°-30 E 36
15 S 64°-45' E 75
16 S 36° E 18
17 S 13°-30' E 30
18 S 47°-30' E 10
19 S 27°-30' E 280 To road
20 S 40°-45' E 360
21 S 76° E 36
22 S 37° E 90 To Ophir Mill
Magnetic Meridian

2. Why Lease Water?! (It carried mill tailings via 3.5-mile Woodworth Mill flume.)

This ambitious project **transported tailings from 25 to 30 mills in Gold Canyon** to a **specialized tailings mill** powered by the **Carson River.**

Right, January 1870 certified **"Notice & Plat of survey of the Woodworth Mill Flume,"** by **W. S. Hobart.**

Showing **proposed course of flume** from **Bacon Mill in Silver City,** some **3.5 miles to "Ophir Mill"** near **Carson River;** required to **obtain legal right-of-way** on federal land.

U.S. and Nevada **general Certificate stamp taxes** paid by 5¢ Agreement and Nevada 5¢ green roulette 10.

The Mountain Furnished the Water! Background: the Comstock Lode

The twin cities of **Virginia City and Gold Hill** sprang up around **Nevada's Comstock Lode,** a two-mile strip of **phenomenally rich mines.**

C & C Shaft, Virginia City, 1876 (Carleton Watkins), huge tailings pile right center

Tailings

The **gold and silver** in Comstock ore was **extracted in stamp mills** via a process **only about 65% efficient.**

Tailings, the **primary residue,** were thus **potentially valuable,** and were **accumulated in huge piles awaiting specialized treatment.**

Hobart's Plan

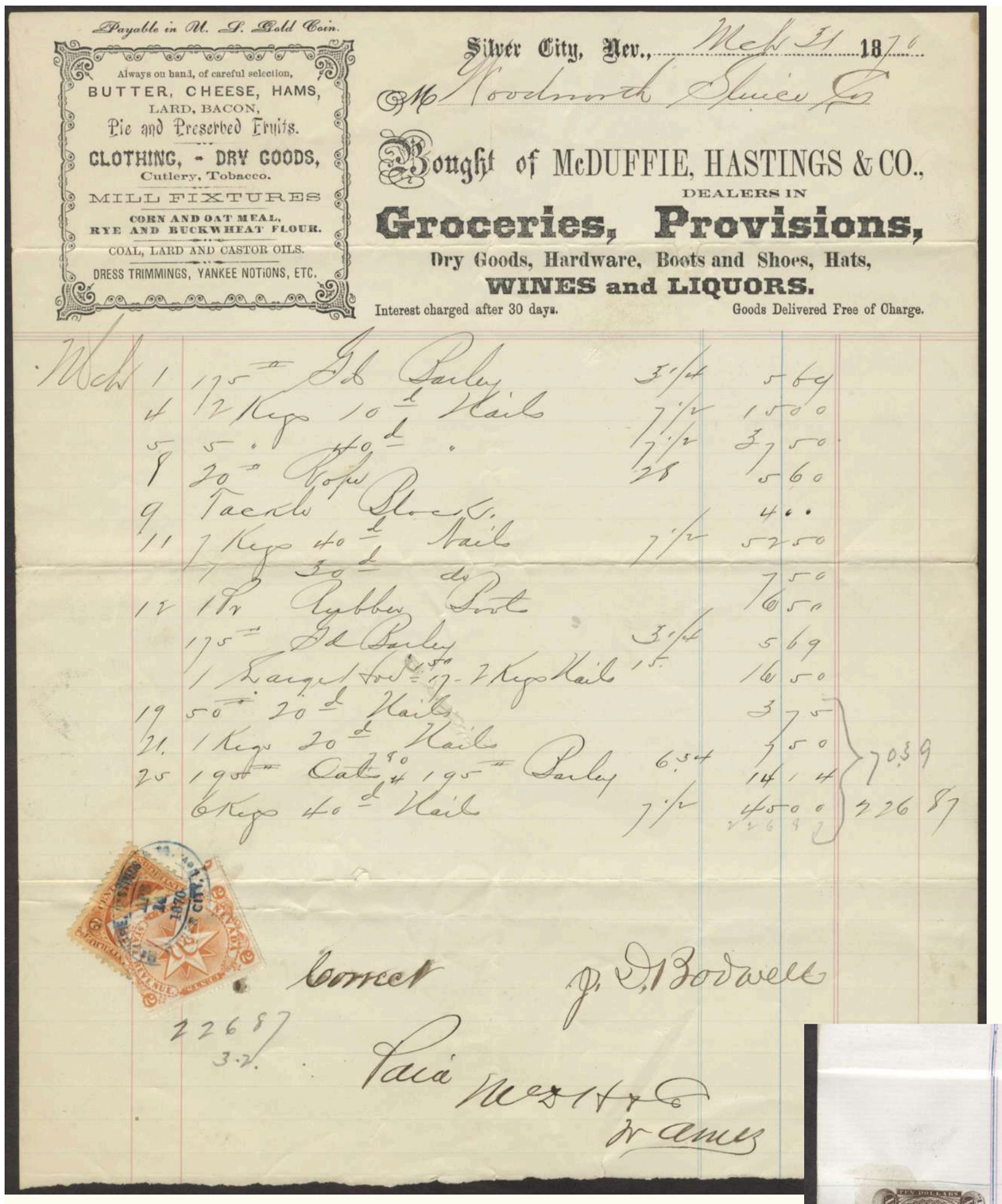
The **Comstock** was in the **Virginia mountain range** at about **6,200' elevation.** The **adjoining mills** were all **steam powered.**

Much **larger, more economical mills** harnessed the **motive power of the Carson River,** some four miles distant and **1,600' lower** in elevation.

Hobart's **leased water** thus **transported tailings** from **Gold Canyon to the Carson** simply **via gravity.**

How the Mountain Furnished the Water

There were **no watercourses** in the region other than a few trivial streams. However, **torrents of water flowed from the Comstock's deep mineshafts.** A much-needed clear flow was the region's only relatively pure source. A **hugely greater, scalding hot, mineral-laden flow** from the lower depths **plagued nearly all mines, pumped to the surface at great cost,** with the side benefit of **providing water for the mills.** This was the **source of the water leased by Hobart** for his flume.



Payable in U. S. Gold Coin.

Always on hand, of careful selection,
BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS,
LARD, BACON,
Pie and Preserved Fruits.
CLOTHING, - DRY GOODS,
Cutlery, Tobacco.
MILL FIXTURES
CORN AND OAT MEAL,
RYE AND BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.
COAL, LARD AND CASTOR OILS.
DRESS TRIMMINGS, YANKEE NOTIONS, ETC.

Silver City, Nev., March 14 1870

Woodworth Sluice Co

Bought of McDUFFIE, HASTINGS & CO.,
DEALERS IN
Groceries, Provisions,
Dry Goods, Hardware, Boots and Shoes, Hats,
WINES and LIQUORS.
Interest charged after 30 days. Goods Delivered Free of Charge.

March 1 175 lbs Gd Barley 3¼ 5 69
4 12 Kegs 10d Nails 7½ 15 00
5 5 " 40d " 7½ 3 75
8 20 lbs Rope 28 5 60
9 Tacks Stock 4 00
11 1 Keg 40d Nails 7½ 5 25
" 1 " 30d " " 7 50
12 1 Pr Rubber Boots 16 50
" 175 lbs Gd Barley 3¼ 5 69
" 1 Large Hoe 2.50 - 2 Kegs Nails 15 16 50
19 50 lbs 20d Nails 3 75
21 1 Keg 20d Nails 7 50
25 190 lbs Oats 80 # 195 lbs Barley 6.34 14 14 70 89
" 6 Kegs 40d Nails 7½ 45 00 226 87

Correct
J. D. Bodwell

2268 7
3.2

Paid March 14 1870
Wm Ames

Middle Portion of Woodworth Sluice, (Egleston, 1887).

Overall dimensions **22 feet by 1,700 feet,** consisting of **twelve sluices** 19 inches wide.The **hundreds of blankets,** each **six feet by 20 inches,** were **cleaned every twelve hours.**

The concentrate thus obtained was **processed in the nearby Woodworth Mill.**

4. Where/How Were the Tailings Processed? (II)
(Gold and silver extracted in "New Ophir"/Woodworth Mill, Carson River)

To **process the concentrate sluiced from the Gold Canyon tailings, Hobart bought from the Ophir Silver Mining Co.** *"the property on Carson River . . . now known as the* **'Woodworth' or 'Ophir' Mill. . . . "**

Right, October 1869 deed for **"Ophir" or "Woodworth" Mill** on **Carson River,** situated on 525 acres,

Ophir Silver Mining Co. to W. S. Hobart, amount $13,000.

- U.S. tax $13, paid by **two $5 Conveyance imperforates** plus $2 & $1
- Nevada tax $13, paid by **$10 imperforate** & six 50¢ roulette 10

Nevada $10 recorded on just seven documents.

All affixed in San Francisco, tied by partial "OPHIR" datestamps.
Remarkable Western use of U.S. imperforates in 1869.

The Fabled Ophir

The **Ophir,** named for the **Bible's land of gold,** site of King Solomon's mines, was the **richest of the early Comstock mines.** Thirty-eight tons of its ore packed across the Sierras in 1859 yielded $112,00 in San Francisco, a stratospheric $3,000 per ton. The bullion therefrom, displayed in the windows of bankers Alsop & Co., were key triggers of the "rush to Washoe." **Virginia City** had in fact been **known as "Ophir Diggings"** until being famously renamed by "Old Virginia" Finney in September 1859.

Flush with success, the Ophir's owners spared no expense in constructing a **$500,000 mill in Washoe Valley,** which proved inefficient and was abandoned, replaced by the **"new Ophir Mill"** on the Carson referred to here. By 1869 the Ophir had fallen on hard times. Along with the deed shown here, the **"Hobart Find"** included one with matching date for the **remnants of the original Ophir Mill for a mere $12,000.**

The involvement of this legendary mine, albeit in a secondary role, adds an exciting facet to the story told here.

3. Where/How Were the Tailings Processed? (I)
(Gold and silver concentrated in Woodworth Sluice)

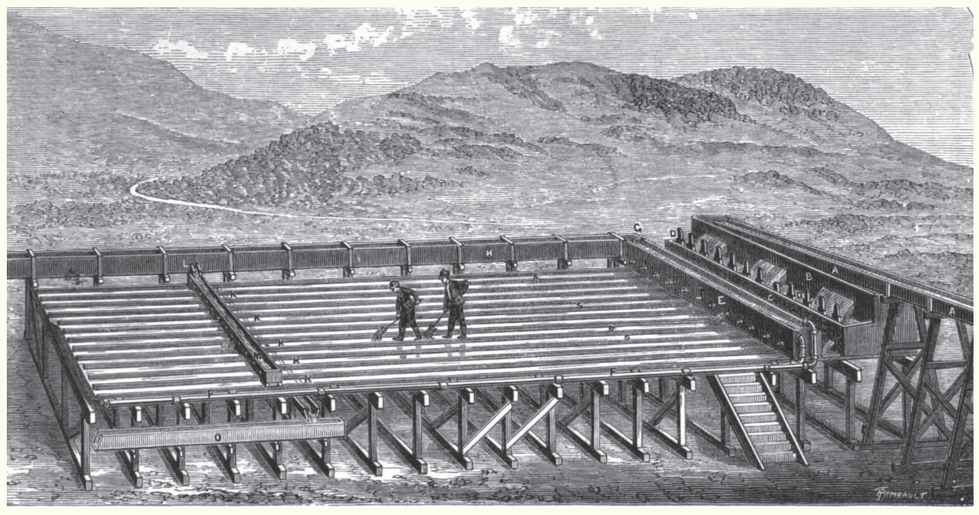
Left, March 1870 receipt, **Silver City, Nevada,** to **Woodworth Sluice Co.**

U.S. and Nevada **Receipt 2¢ stamp taxes,** the latter paid by scarce **2¢ Double Star orange roulette 18,** with oval handstamp cancel **"MCDUFFIE, HASTINGS & CO., SILVER CITY, Nev."**

Right, close view of Nevada stamp, showing **fine gauge 18** rouletting.

Sole recorded Silver City handstamp cancel.

The **Woodworth Sluice,** illustrated and described below, was the **largest tailings sluice in Nevada (and the world).**



Upper Section of Woodworth Sluice (Egleston, 1887)

Terminus of 3.5-mile Woodworth Flume at **far right,** from which **tailings flow onto the blanket-covered sluices,** along with water.

Golden Fleece Revisited

As **workers sweep the blankets,** the heavier **gold- and silver-containing material is caught** in their nap, and washed from the blankets every 12 hours. (The same principle underlay the **ancient use of sheepskin to catch gold particles,** believed to have inspired the **mythical Golden Fleece.)**

photocopy of reverse

Mining Company" once and now known as the "Woodworth" or "Ophir" Mill

This Indenture made this twenty third day of October in the year Eighteen hundred and sixty nine.

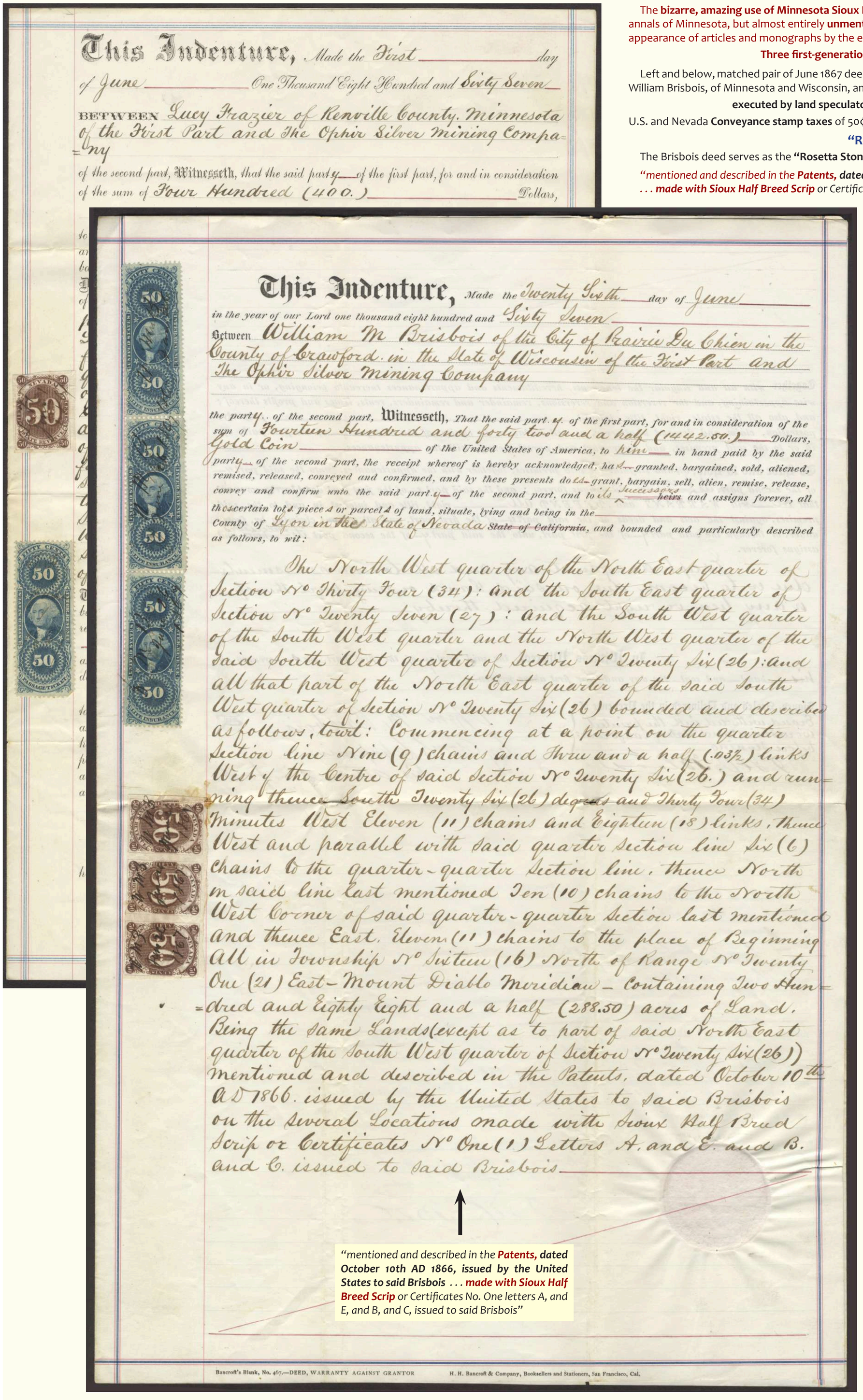
Between the Ophir Silver Mining Company a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of California, engaged in the business of mining and milling in the State of Nevada, of the first part and W S Hobart of the City of Virginia, County of Storey and State of Nevada of the second part.

Witnesseth. That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Thirteen Thousand Dollars, to it paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged Has granted, bargained sold and conveyed and by these presents Does grant bargain sell and convey to the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever

All that certain property on Carson River in Lyon County State of Nevada formerly known as the property of the "Carson River

Close view of Nevada $10

5. How Was the "New Ophir Mill" Patented? (Via Minnesota Sioux Half-Breed Scrip!)



This Indenture, Made the First day of June One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Seven BETWEEN Lucy Frazier of Renville County, Minnesota of the First Part and The Ophir Silver Mining Company of the second part, Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Four Hundred (400.) Dollars,

This Indenture, Made the Twenty Sixth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Sixty Seven Between William M Brisbois of the City of Prairie Du Chien in the County of Crawford in the State of Wisconsin of the First Part and The Ophir Silver Mining Company the party of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said part of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Fourteen Hundred and forty two and a half (1442.50.) Dollars, Gold Coin of the United States of America, to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and to its Successors heirs and assigns forever, all those certain lots pieces or parcels of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Lyon in the State of Nevada ~~State of California~~, and bounded and particularly described as follows, to wit:

The North West quarter of the North East quarter of Section No Thirty Four (34): and the South East quarter of Section No Twenty Seven (27): and the South West quarter of the South West quarter and the North West quarter of the said South West quarter of Section No Twenty Six (26): And all that part of the North East quarter of the said South West quarter of Section No Twenty Six (26) bounded and described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point on the quarter Section line Nine (9) chains and Three and a half (.03½) links West of the Centre of said Section No Twenty Six (26.) and running thence South Twenty Six (26) degrees and Thirty Four (34) Minutes West Eleven (11) chains and Eighteen (18) links, thence West and parallel with said quarter Section line Six (6) chains to the quarter-quarter Section line, thence North on said line last mentioned Ten (10) chains to the North West Corner of said quarter-quarter Section last mentioned and thence East, Eleven (11) chains to the place of Beginning All in Township No Sixteen (16) North of Range No Twenty One (21) East-Mount Diablo Meridian- Containing Two Hundred and Eighty Eight and a half (288.50) acres of Land. Being the same Lands (except as to part of said North East quarter of the South West quarter of Section No Twenty Six (26)) mentioned and described in the Patents, dated October 10th A D 1866. issued by the United States to said Brisbois on the several Locations made with Sioux Half Breed Scrip or Certificates No One (1) Letters A. and E. and B. and C. issued to said Brisbois

Bancroft's Blank, No. 467.—DEED, WARRANTY AGAINST GRANTOR H. H. Bancroft & Company, Booksellers and Stationers, San Francisco, Cal.

"mentioned and described in the **Patents, dated October 10th AD 1866, issued by the United States to said Brisbois . . . made with Sioux Half Breed Scrip** or Certificates No. One letters A, and E, and B, and C, issued to said Brisbois"

The **bizarre, amazing use of Minnesota Sioux Half Breed scrip to secure Nevada land patents** is well covered in the annals of Minnesota, but almost entirely **unmentioned in the vast literature on the early history of Nevada,** until the appearance of articles and monographs by the exhibitor.

Three first-generation Sioux Half Breed scrip deeds recorded.

Left and below, matched pair of June 1867 deeds **to Ophir Silver Mining Co. from Sioux half-breeds** Lucy Frazier and William Brisbois, of Minnesota and Wisconsin, amounts $400 and $1,442.50,

executed by land speculator William S. Chapman as their **attorney in fact.**

U.S. and Nevada **Conveyance stamp taxes** of 50¢ per $500. The state stamps are the 50¢ imperforate purple brown.

"Rosetta Stone" Deed

The Brisbois deed serves as the **"Rosetta Stone" link to the Sioux scrip,** stating the land conveyed was:

*"mentioned and described in the **Patents, dated October 10th AD 1866, issued by the United States to said Brisbois . . . made with Sioux Half Breed Scrip** or Certificates* **No. One letters A, and E, and B, and C,** *issued to said Brisbois."*

Minnesota Sioux Scrip in the West: the Perverse Genius of William C. Chapman

At its creation in 1861, **Nevada** was **virtually all federal land.** For **mining property, securing title** was **relatively easy;** only minimal developmental work was required.

For **non-mining property, securing title** was **typically problematic.**

Enter **land speculator William S. Chapman,** originally of **Hennepin County, Minnesota,** whose genius was to use **Sioux half-breed scrip,** valid on any federal land, to **obtain patents** on large **Nevada timber tracts,** and as shown here, for the **land on which the "New Ophir" Mill stood.**

The 1830 "Half-Breed Tract" in green (Royce, 1899).

Sioux Half-Breed Scrip

In **1830** Minnesota had set aside **320,000 acres for Sioux half-breeds,** to remedy their shunning by the white and native populations. When squatters occupied prime sections, the state **in 1854 issued scrip to the Sioux** for up to **640 acres** of unimproved **federal land.**

Its **sale was prohibited,** but **speculators circumvented** this via **powers of attorney** giving them control. **Large amounts were thus obtained,** typically for **only about 50¢ per acre,** from the impoverished Sioux, unaware of its potential value. Speculators went so far as to scour the Fort Snelling internment camp, in which hundreds of destitute Sioux were held after the Dakota War of 1862, for their scrip.

Fort Snelling internment camp circa 1862 (Minnesota Historical Society)

Chapman was the driving force for the use of the Sioux scrip in the West.

Where Were These Lands, and Why Was the Ophir Company Buying Them?

They included a **long continuous sweep along the Carson River, precisely where the "Ophir Mill" was situated!**

The deeds decribe the parcels in **BLM coordinates Range, Township and Section.** Using the Township and Range feature on **www.earthpoint.us,** then visualizing on **Google Earth,** yielded the view shown below for **two quarter-sections** of **Range 21E, Twp 16N, Section 26,** comprising 80 acres included in the Brisbois deed outlined; they **lie along the Carson River about a mile above Dayton.**

Close view of Sec. 26; SW¼ & NE¼ of SW¼ in yellow, lying along the Carson River

Cobbling together several such maps of all the acreage conveyed to the Ophir by Brisbois and Frazier in the two deeds at hand shows that it included a **long continuous sweep along the river, precisely where the "New Ophir Mill," was situated!**

When the mill was sold to W. S. Hobart, as shown by the deed on the preceding page, these deeds to the land on which it stood were undoubtedly included, and **survived together in the "Hobart Find"** that reached philatelic hands circa 2019.

H. C. Lillie & Co., 44 South C Street, Virginia.

This Indenture, Made the Thirteenth day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and Seventy

BETWEEN W S Hobart, of the City of Virginia County of Storey and State of Nevada, party of the first part, and John W. Mackay, and James G Fair, of the same place

the parties of the second part, Witnesseth. That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty Five Thousand — Dollars, Gold Coin of the United States of America, to him in hand paid by the said parties of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, Hath granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents Do the grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part, and to their heirs and assigns forever, ALL of an undivided one half of that Certain piece or parcel of land or Mill Site, situate lying and being in the County of Lyon, State of Nevada, about one mile and one quarter (1¼) Miles, above the Town of Dayton on the Carson River, Containing Five Hundred and Twenty five (525) acres, More or less, together with an undivided one half of the Quartz Mill thereon situated with the Machinery, known as the "Woodworth Mill"; also an undivided one half of the water rights and privileges heretofore had and enjoyed with said Mill; also an undivided one half of that certain flume Constructed by the party of the first part for the purpose of carrying tailings to said Mill, Commencing at or near Silver City, and running to said Mill; also, an undivided one half of the tailings carried and deposited at said Mill by said flume. The premises hereby Conveyed being a part of the premises heretofore Conveyed to the party of the first part by the Ophir Silver Mining Company by Deed now of record in the office of the County Recorder of said Lyon County.

TOGETHER with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and also all the estate, right, title, interest, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said party of the first part, of, in or to the said premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances.

To Have and to Hold, all and singular, the said premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof, The said party of the first part hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

W S Hobart, {L. S}

{L. S.}

6.1 Financing of Ophir Mill; Infusion of Capital (I): (Mortgage by W. S. Hobart to Comstock Titans John Mackay and James Fair)

Left, September 1870 mortgage of **half interest in Woodworth Mill,** "*heretofore conveyed by Ophir Silver Mining Co.,*"

W. S. Hobart to John W. Mackay and James G. Fair,

Amount **$35,000,** to secure a loan in that amount at 1¼% per month; if paid by March 1, 1871, Mackay and Fair to execute a deed back to Hobart for the property.

Included were the **flume constructed by Hobart "*carrying tailings to said Mill, commencing near Silver City*";** also the **tailings carried thereby.** This is the **"Woodworth Flume"** described above.

- **U.S. tax $35,** paid by **$5 Charter Party (x5),** and **ten $1 stamps** on the reverse.
- **Nevada tax $35,** paid by **$20, $10 & $5,** the **highest-value denominations of the Nevada stamps.**

Nevada $20 recorded on just six documents, $10 on seven, $5 on twelve; only one other bears all three.

Mackay and Fair were already **titans of the Comstock,** soon to be **immortalized as architects of the fabled "Big Bonanza" of 1873–8** which produced **over $100 million. Mackay's three-eighths share** would make him **arguably America's richest man,** with **Fair's quarter share** placing him **not far behind.**

Close view of Nevada $5, $10, $20

expenses of sold.

And it is hereby Mutually Covenanted and agreed by and between the said parties hereto, that in case the said party of the first part, shall well and truly pay to the said parties of the second part the sum of Thirty five Thousand Dollars, Gold Coin of the United States on or before the Tenth day of March AD 1871, with the interest thereon as aforesaid, in like gold Coin, then and in that case the said parties of the second part, will make, execute and deliver to said party of the first part a good and sufficient deed, reconveying to said party of the first part the property above described

In Witness Whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto set their Hands and Seals (in duplicate) this Thirteenth day of September, AD 1870

W S Hobart, Esq

W. Mackay Esq

James G. Fair Esq

6.2 Financing of Ophir Mill; Infusion of Capital (II): (Woodworth Mill Mortgage Agreement Signed Mackay, Fair and Hobart!)

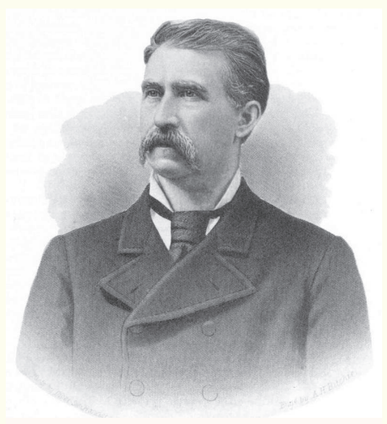
As shown above, on September 13, 1870, **Hobart** had executed a **mortgage deed to a half interest in the Woodworth Mill, Carson River,** for $35,000, **to John Mackay and James Fair.**

Right, **agreement** made the same day at Virginia City, by which **Mackay and Fair agreed** to **deed this half interest in the Woodworth back to Hobart** if paid $35,000 by March 1, 1871.

The federal and state **Agreement 5¢ taxes** appears to have been **paid three times,** once for each of the parties.

- U.S. 10¢ & 5¢
- Nevada **5¢ green roulette 10 strip of three.**

Signatures of Mackay and Fair recorded together on only two documents, here with Hobart as a bonus!



John Mackay

William Fair

Walter Hobart

Epilog: Behind-the-Scenes Role of Mackay and Fair

The two documents shown above hint at the **important role played by Mackay and Fair,** two of the **most prominent figures in the annals of Nevada,** in the **tailings recovery project** profiled here**:**

- In **1869** they had bought a major interest in the **Virginia and Gold Hill Water Co.,** which **leased the water to Hobart** for the **Woodworth Mill Flume.** In **1871** the company would be reorganized with **Hobart joining Mackay and Fair as directors.**
- As shown herein, in October 1869 **Hobart paid just $13,000 for the Woodworth Mill.** His September 1870 **mortgage to Mackay and Fair** of a **half-interest for $35,000,** also shown here, appears to have been essentially a **generous loan to a friend.** In fact, in the months prior, Hobart had executed a similar mortgage to L. P. Drexler for just $10,000! (not shown).

Mackay and Fair, along with lesser partners James Flood and William O'Brien, are justly **legendary** as **Nevada's "Silver Kings";** adjusted for inflation, all four are still listed among the **100 richest Americans of all time.** Their involvement adds an **exciting and unexpected final twist** to the **unfolding backstory underlying W. S. Hobart's philatelically remarkable water lease.**